



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE**  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER  
THIRTY SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 2003  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (203) 217-1333  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-0381  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
E-mail: Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov

**RANKING MEMBER**  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Testimony of State Senator Rob Kane  
Regarding Senate Bill 919  
An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers  
March 2, 2009

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator McKinney, Representative Chapin and members of the Environment Committee. For the record, I am State Senator Rob Kane of the 32nd District and I am here to express my opposition to Senate Bill 919, An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers.

Chemtura, one of the largest companies in my district, is one of the three major manufacturers of the flame retardant deca brominated diphenyl ether. Many of its employees live in my district.

I have spent a great deal of time studying this issue over the past year and can state without hesitation that this committee should not ban the most effective flame retardant on the market today.

Deca BDE was the sole focus of a 10 year risk assessment conducted by the European Union and was found to be safe for humans and the environment. Similar conclusions were reached by the US EPA, The National Academy of Sciences and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Recently, the presidents of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) asked the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to work with them to evaluate this product (see attached letter.) It is my understanding that both groups will not take a position in support of a ban while this study is ongoing.

In my opinion, this is a very reasonable approach. I believe we in the General Assembly should be respectful of the fire fighters position and not act in haste. If we do so we may be making a tragic mistake that will be felt for years to come.

I also want to stress the economic harm that a ban would have on Chemtura and its

employees. As we all are too painfully aware, now is not the time to be causing additional economic hardship on Connecticut companies.

Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.



January 30, 2009

Dr. William Grosshandler  
Deputy Director, Building and Fire Research Laboratory  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Building 226, Room B216  
100 Bureau Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8650

Dear Dr. Grosshandler:

Over the past several months, you have had conversations with the staffs of both the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) on the subject of the health effects to fire fighters of flame retardants (FRs) in the aftermath of a fire, and in exploring alternative fire retardant options. As you know, this is a complex issue that concerns both of our organizations greatly. We are committed to working through the complexities jointly, with your help.

We very much appreciate your offer to have NIST serve as an organizer and neutral host of a scientific workshop on this topic. We ask that NIST convene an initial meeting with representatives of our three organizations in order to discuss issues such as the objectives of the workshop, which organizations should be involved, agenda topics, when and where should the workshop be held, and budget requirements. This initial meeting would also provide us with an opportunity to share what each of our respective organizations sees as its role in addressing this problem.

For the IAFF, Rich Duffy, Assistant to the General President for Health, Safety & Medicine, will be taking the lead on this issue. For NASFM, Vice President David Foreman of Illinois will take the lead, with assistance from Karen Suhr of our Washington, D.C., staff.

Please confirm that we can move forward to address this crucial issue of fire fighter health and safety with NIST's assistance. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Harold A. Schaitberger'.

Harold A. Schaitberger  
General President  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO, CLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Alan R. Shuman'.

Alan R. Shuman  
President  
National Association of State Fire Marshals